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3-9-04
JC

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Confirmation No. 8434

SUGIMURA et al.

Art Unit: 2615

Application Number: 09/537,755

Examiner: H. Nguyen

Filed: March 30, 2000

Attorney Dkt. No.: 107314-00001

3/18/04
For: IMAGE RECORDING APPARATUS, IMAGE REPRODUCING APPARATUS, AND IMAGE RECORDING/REPRODUCING APPARATUS

RESTRICTION RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.121

Director to the U.S. PTO
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 26, 2004

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Sir:

Technology Center 2600

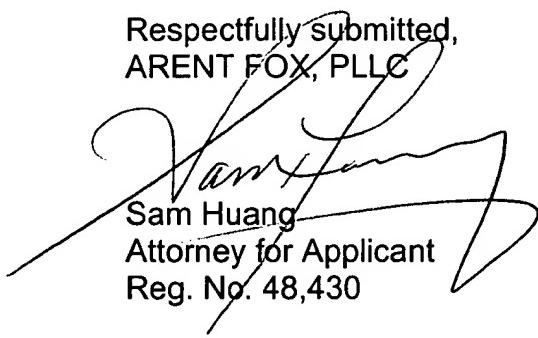
This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated January 29, 2004, in which the Office Action identified three (3) distinct groups. The Office Action further required the Applicant(s), under 35 U.S.C. § 121, to elect a single group for prosecution.

Pursuant to the Office Action's requirement, the Applicants elect, without traverse, Group I, directed to the subject matter recited in claims 1-6 for further prosecution. It is understood that claims 7-13 shall be withdrawn from prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application on the non-elected subject matter.

Accordingly, a timely examination and favorable action on claims 1-6 is respectfully requested.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 107314-00001.

Respectfully submitted,
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